

ANTHROPOLOGY 3313B-001/9105B

Artifact Analysis

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2022-23



Projectile points from the Ridge Pine II site in Grand Bend, Ontario
(Photo courtesy Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants)

Version date: January 10, 2023

Instructor and course information:

Class day/time: Thursday 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Classroom: SSC 2257

Instructor: Dr. Peter Timmins (he/him)

Office: SSC 3216

Office hours: To be announced on the course OWL site.

Email: ptimmins@uwo.ca

Credit Value: 0.5

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 2229

Note: This course is cross-listed with graduate and undergraduate students.

Course Description:

This course will explore how archaeologists identify and analyze artifact collections; the work commonly done with artifacts in the lab after fieldwork. While the focus will be on the archaeological analysis of precontact artifact classes, especially lithics and pottery, we will also discuss historic artifact classes (ceramics, glass, metal). The emphasis will be on learning and

using established analytical techniques. As well, students will be introduced to matters of managing archaeological collections over the long term, including conservation, providing access, and maintaining collection integrity and contextual data. Most classes will consist of a lecture followed by a lab, although one field trip is planned. To facilitate the hands-on experience, each student will be loaned a small collection of teaching artifacts. Assignments will involve analysis of artifacts in the artifact kits, analysis of artifact datasets provided by the instructor, and a reflection on the planned field trip.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the historical development of lithic analysis.
- Discuss the basics of lithic tool production including fracture mechanics and stone tool morphological dynamics.
- Describe the various types of lithic raw materials used in lithic tool manufacture.
- Identify lithic tool attributes, recognize tool types and understand basic stone tool typologies.
- Identify flake debitage attributes and understand methods of debitage analysis.
- Analyze various classes of stone tools including cores, flake tools and bifaces.
- Discuss the relationship between artifact types, artifact diversity and site function.
- Describe how lithic analysis can inform our understanding of sedentism.
- Discuss the historical development of ceramic analysis.
- Explain the stages and methods involved in the production of ceramic vessels.
- Discuss various approaches to ceramic typology and analysis.
- Describe how ethnoarchaeology may inform the analysis of archaeological ceramics.
- Summarize the ways that ceramics have been used in the construction of chronologies.
- Discuss analyses of ceramic use, activity distribution, production and distribution.
- Identify ware types used in historic ceramic analysis.
- Summarize the analytical techniques used in the study of common historic artifact categories including food & beverage, architectural, clothing and smoking materials.
- Describe the major issues involved in the long-term management of archaeological collections and maintenance of collection integrity.

Course Materials:

2005 *Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis*, Second Edition. Andrefsky, William Jr. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, New York.

Hard copies of this text will be available in the Bookstore, however, an electronic version of this text is also available using the Course Readings tool in OWL.

2013 *Pottery in Archaeology*, Second Edition. Orton, Clive and Michael Hughes. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, New York.

This text is not available through the Western Bookstore, however, an electronic version of the text is available through the Course Readings tool in OWL. There are no limits on the number of students who can access this e-book at the same time.

A small number of additional readings will be accessed through OWL's Course Readings feature. These readings are listed in the weekly schedule.

Evaluation Details:

Assignments – 40%

Assignment 1, Lithic Analysis and Interpretation, maximum 1500 words, available on OWL Feb. 2, 2023; due Feb 16 at 6 pm using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page. 20%

Assignment 2, Pottery Manufacture - Reflection on Field Trip, maximum 1500 words, available on OWL March 16, 2023; due March 30 at 6 pm using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page. The class will visit the London Clay Art Centre on March 23rd for a pottery manufacture workshop. Students will be responsible for their own transportation to the Clay Art Centre in downtown London, although some carpooling may be arranged. There will be an additional cost of \$40 for the workshop. An alternate assignment on ceramic analysis will be required for students who cannot attend the workshop. 20%

Assignments for students enrolled in Anthropology 9105B may differ from those assigned for Anthropology 3313B in the complexity of analyses required and will require responses that are more critically nuanced.

Assignment details will be discussed in class and made available on the Assignments page of the course OWL site.

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

Late Policy for Assignments

There will be a 2% reduction of the assignment grade for each day that an assignment is late (including weekends and holidays). Unless accommodation is granted, assignments that are not handed in within 10 days of the due date (including weekends and holidays) may receive a grade of zero.

Quizzes on Readings – 20%

There will be 12 short quizzes on the weekly readings. These will be completed on the OWL course site using the Tests & Quizzes feature. The quizzes will be posted on the OWL Lesson page on Thursdays and will close at 9:30 am the following Thursday, except for the Week 12 quiz which is available Thursday, April 6th and closes on the last day of classes, Monday, April 10th. The quiz questions will be drawn from the readings to be covered in the week that they are posted (i.e. the Week 1 quiz will cover the Week 1 readings, will be available Jan. 12th and will close at 9:30 am on Jan. 19th). Each quiz will consist of five true-false questions, will have a 6-minute time limit, and may only be submitted once. No make-ups will be permitted for missed quizzes, except in cases where academic accommodation has been granted, however, in calculating the final quiz grade only the best 10 will be counted.

Lab Exercises – 20%

The class will complete six lab exercises that will be submitted through OWL and graded. These will be either completed and submitted during weekly lab sessions or submitted prior to the next class using the OWL Assignments page. The dates of the lab exercises will not be announced in advance.

Make ups will not generally be permitted for missed lab exercises unless academic accommodation has been granted, but only the best five lab grades will be counted.

Take-Home Final Exam – 20%

Final Take Home Exam, Integrated Artifact Analysis and Interpretation, (Maximum 1500 words) Students will have three days during the final exam period to complete the final exam. The release and due dates are to be determined (submission using the Turnitin feature on the OWL Assignments page). The final exam cannot be submitted late unless accommodation is granted.

Academic Statements and Policies:

Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:

In order to pass this course students must submit the final take home exam during the final exam period.

Use of OWL

Western's online course management program, will be used for providing the final course outline and weekly schedule (using the Syllabus page), completing weekly quizzes (using the Test and Quizzes tool), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available in the OWL Lesson pages after each class. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

Accommodation Policies:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

Weekly Topics and Readings:

(Note – this is a tentative schedule. Any additions or adjustments made to it will be announced in advance in class and on OWL.)

Week 1, Jan. 12/23	Introduction and the Basics of Stone Tool Production, Readings: Andrefsky, Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2, Jan. 19/23	Lithic Raw Materials; Lithic Analysis and Classification, Readings: Andrefsky, Chapter 3 & 4
Week 3, Jan. 26/23	Debitage Analysis, Readings: Andrefsky, Chapters 5 & 6
Week 4, Feb. 2/23	Approaches to Stone Tool Analysis, Readings: Andrefsky, Chapter 7, Assignment 1 released
Week 5, Feb. 9/23	Artifact Diversity and Site Function; Lithic Analysis and Sedentism, Reading: Andrefsky, Chapter 8, 9 & 10
Week 6, Feb. 16/23	Introduction to Archaeological Ceramics; History of Pottery Studies, Reading: Orton & Hughes, Chapters 1, 2, 3. Assignment 1 due
Feb. 19 – 26/23	No class – reading week
Week 7, March 2/23	Studying Archaeological Ceramics, Readings: Orton & Hughes, Chapters 4, 5.
Week 8, March 9/23	Classification of Form & Decoration, Chronology. Readings: Orton & Hughes, Chapters 6, 14, 15, 16.
Week 9, March 16/23	Making Pottery, Experimental Archaeology and Craft Specialization. Orton & Hughes, Chapters 10, 11, 12 M. Schiffer et al. (1994) New Perspectives on Experimental Archaeology: Surface Treatments and Thermal Response of the Clay Cooking Pot. <i>American Antiquity</i> 59(2), pp. 197-217. Assignment 2 released
Week 10, March 23/23	Field trip to the London Clay Art Centre.
Week 11, March 30/23	Ceramic Production & Distribution, Function, and Assemblages & Sites. Orton & Hughes, Chapters 17, 18, 19. Assignment 2 due
Week 12, April 6/23	Historic Artifact Analysis: Ceramics and Other Artifact Categories. Managing Archaeological Collections. Readings: Charles Orser (2017), Artifacts in Historical Archaeology. In <i>Historical Archaeology</i> , 3 rd edition. Neal Ferris (1984), Buttons I have Known. In <i>KEWA</i> , Newsletter of the London Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society.

April 13 – 30, 2023

Final exam period. ***Assignment 3, Final take home exam - dates and times to be determined.***